

CORE IDEALS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY

In which of our national document(s) (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, etc...) can you find the core ideal PATRIOTISM?

As a society today, or throughout our history, explain how have we moved toward and/or away from that ideal.

The Bill of Rights, the United States Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence; do these sound familiar? Of all the many ways to express our rights, it was done in the form of these few hand-written documents that define American as we know it. We as patriots have right to express our knowledge of these in ways that multiple countries do not; individual rights, truth, equality, popular sovereignty, diversity, justice, common good... and patriotism.

Patriotism, the right that allows you to respect your country may not have been allowed to us, unfortunately, if it weren't for a few documents that were written back in the late 1700's. This right we are guaranteed is stated the most clearly in the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation, one of the thirteen U.S Constitutions we have experienced and referred to in the 231 years of our free country's history. In these 231 years, we have bounced around between strong, balanced, and minimum patriotism. There have been times, like the incidents such as the Twin Towers terrorist attacks from Al Qaeda, or Pearl Harbor, where we really had to focus on our patriotism and stand up for our country and fight. We have had to be strong and bond together as a patriotic nation and express our love for our country in order to remain confident and strong as a nation. These are the times when we are very strong patriotically, although we have had to put our thought aside and fight for other countries as well, such as the case with Iraq. We haven't always had a strong bond or been in sync with our nation and economy. We have had economic crisis like the Great Depression and our budget cuts and bail-out plans that we are going through right now that have caused us to draw a little bit away from patriotism and more towards greed and sometimes a more government based, overpowering rule. Patriotism is very important, so we definitely need to try and express it whenever possible.